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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL 4-H CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY*
Pan American Union
Washington, D. C.

Wednesday, June 20, 1951

Special 4-H Ceremony Honoring Our Guests From Other Lands

Amid the deepening shadows on this starlit evening, it is very fitting that we should assemble here in this beautiful setting for our last meeting together. The Pan American Union, with its beautiful gardens, is a living symbol of high idealism, of neighborliness and good will between nations. Moreover, we as delegates to this Twenty-first National 4-H Club Camp are clasping hands with representatives from nations far distant from our own.

We trust that for all, this has been a wonderful week—a week of inspiration, companionship, and seeing and learning. You young men and women have come with eager hearts, expectant, looking for adventure and knowledge. You have come because of your achievements in 4-H Club work or in some similar activity. You have come because of your willingness to work, your willingness to take part and serve, your friendliness, your cooperativeness, your enthusiasm. Yes, you have come to see and hear and learn and take back the story of the Twenty-first National 4-H Club Camp to the many thousands who have remained at home.

But you will take home much more than you brought here. You all, as partners in progress, have become acquainted with young people and leaders of many lands. You have become acquainted with their traditions, customs, contributions, and ideals. You have become acquainted with their many points of similarity. You have

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a real part in making the 1951 4-H theme, "Working Together for World Understanding" a reality. All of you, too, now have a better understanding of the democratic processes here that assure liberty and justice to all. In addition, we trust that all of you now have a better understanding of your own opportunities and responsibilities as citizens of the Nation which each of you represents.

May the lighting of the candles this evening be symbolic of the idealism that has made the 4-H Clubs a moving force for good in this great land of ours.

At this time, will the Director step forward and light the central candle representing the 1951 National 4-H Club Camp.

Director Wilson:

May the light from this central candle serve as a symbol—a beacon furnishing light to all the other candles in the same way as this National 4-H Club Camp has been and will continue to be an unwavering inspiration to all of us here.

Will _____ step forward and light the candle which represents the Head H and tell how the training you have received during this Camp has helped to train your head for clearer thinking.

Club Member, Representing Head H,
lights candle from National 4-H
Camp Candle:

This 4-H Camp has given us a rare opportunity to confer together regarding the development of a strong rural leadership and a richer and fuller life for all. Moreover, it has given us an opportunity to increase our knowledge about government and to see how effectively it functions.

Now, it is the responsibility of each of us to take back to our home and to our community, the inspiration we have received here and the information we have gained. In so doing, may we be enabled to stimulate a renewed feeling of patriotism and constructive action in connection with citizenship responsibilities and opportunities everywhere.

Narrator:

Will _____ step forward and light the candle which represents the Heart H and tell what you have received during this Camp to train your heart to be kind, to be true, to be sympathetic.

Second Club Member, Representing the Heart H,
lights candle from the National 4-H Camp
Candle:

During this National 4-H Club Camp we have enjoyed the fellowship of young men and women from all sections of our own Nation and from nations far distant. We have formed strong ties of friendship--friendships which will deepen as the years go by.

At this moment may we be mindful of some of the ideals that have guided us during this week which reflect the Heart H--ideals such as love, understanding, tolerance, harmony, courtesy, kindness, justice, faith, trust, loyalty. As we return to our homes and communities let us hold resolutely to these ideals and may they be as the stars that guide the navigator, charting the course of his ship at sea.

Will _____ now light the candle which represents the Hand H and tell how this National 4-H Club Camp has helped to train your hands for larger service.

Third Member, Representing the Hand H,
lights the candle from the National
4-H Club Camp Candle:

During this week we have gained a greater appreciation of the opportunities for service that we can render through our hands skilled to perform difficult tasks that will benefit those around us in our homes and in our communities. Hereafter, may we never miss an opportunity to help those thousands of 4-H Club members and others as well, who remained at home, in order that they, too, may gain some of the inspirational experiences and satisfactions that have been ours this week.

Narrator:

Will _____ step forward and light the candle which represents the Health H.

Fourth Member, Representing the Health H,
lights candle from the National 4-H Camp
Candle:

We delegates who have been privileged to enjoy the many rich and profitable experiences made possible for us during this week, have been able to do so largely because of that cherished possession--good health. May we never forget that, to be a useful citizen, doing our part fully and well, we must guard as a valued possession a clean, strong, healthy body and a healthy mind. The world needs us at our very best.

Narrator:

As the 4-H health candle is casting its first beams of light, let us sing the chorus of our 4-H health song -

Our goal is health, the quest for man and maid,
The great adventure rare, for health holds life,
and laughter and strength and happiness to spare.

Our goal is health, the quest for man and maid.
Lift high the goblet fair, and pledge the toast
from coast to coast. "Our health, the wealth
We keep and share."

Narrator:

And now in honor of our friends here tonight from distant lands and some from across the seas--will _____ step forward and light the candle which represents international understanding and friendship.

Fifth Member, Representing International
Understanding and Friendship, lights
candle from the National 4-H Camp Candle:

(Response in his own words)

Narrator:

Thank you _____, very much for your friendly words of trust and understanding--a fitting response to remember as we take away with us deep in our hearts this pledge to the country each of us represents:

Our land, we pledge to thee our heads, our hearts, our hands;
our splendid health shall prove thy wealth, thou dearest of
all the lands.

Our land, our strength and zeal thy shining sword shall be;
we pledge as youth to stand for truth, for right and liberty
and carry high this torch to every part of our own great land.

With this pledge in our hearts, surrounded by historic shrines and landmarks of this great Capital City, may God grant that our ideals and persistent efforts may count for good in bringing into being real peace the world over.

With our candles bright among the evening shadows, may we all sing, "Follow the Gleam."

To the Knights in the days of old,
Keeping watch on the mountain height
Came a vision of Holy Grail
And a voice thro' the waiting night,
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Banners unfurled o'er all the world,
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Of the Chalice that is the Grail.

And we who would serve the King
And loyally Him obey,
In the consecrate silence know
That the challenge still holds today,
Follow, follow, follow the gleam,
Standards of worth o'er all the earth,
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Of the light that shall bring the dawn

And now as we extinguish the candles of this Twenty-first National 4-H Club Camp, and softly sing together, may it be in our hearts to rekindle these candles in our home communities--there to symbolize the same inspiration and desire to do as here felt on this memorable occasion.

May the Good Lord bless and keep you,
Whether near or far away,
May the good you wish for others shine on you today.
May your heart stay tuned to music, that will cheer the hearts of men,
May the Good Lord bless and keep you,
Till we meet again.

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